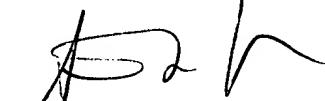


The attached Declaration of William P. Densmore was submitted in 09/036,236, and is equally applicable herein. That is, while the claims of the present application are believed to differ from those pending in 09/036,236, the declaration makes reference to essential elements of the present claims, and provides *prima facie* evidence that applicants possessed the claimed invention prior to the filing date of Teper et al., April 13, 1996. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this Declaration should be treated as a Declaration under 37 C.R.R. § 1.131 showing completion, in this country, of the invention before the filing date of Teper et al., U.S. 5,815,665 (April 3, 1996), and indeed, is also sufficient to meet the standards under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to antedate Reeder et al., U.S. 5,815,665 (August 25, 1995), supported by applicants' records.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection in view of Teper et al. is overcome.

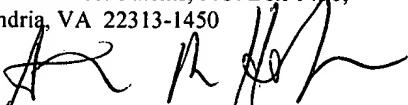
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By 
Date 2/24/04